

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DAMASC 01489 051335Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 EUR-12 ISO-00 SSM-05 IO-13 DHA-02 OMB-01
CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02
PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 ORM-02 /095 W
-----051338 042583 /46

P R 051244Z MAR 77

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2057
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
USMISSION USUN
USIA WASHDC
DIA WASHDC
USCINCEUR

UNCLAS DAMASCUS 1489

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR SY LE
SUBJECT: MARCH 2-4 PRESS COLUMNS FOCUS ON SITUATION IN LEBANON

1. RECENT PRESS COLUMNS HAVE RESURFACED SYRIAN CONCERN
WITH DISORDER IN SOUTH LEBANON. AL-THAWRAH COLUMNIST
ASSERTED THAT, JUST WHEN TENSIONS HAD BEGUN TO EASE,
"SOME GUNMEN GATHERED IN SOUTH LEBANON TO DISRUPT ADF
MISSION AND ISRAEL INITIATED ITS HOSTILE PROVOCATIONS
ALONG LENGTH OF BORDER, TO GIVE WORLD ILLUSION THAT
WAR HAS NOT YET ENDED IN LEBANON. ISRAEL COUPLED
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WITH THIS FEVERISH ACTIVITY A POLITICAL AND DIPLOMATIC
CAMPAIGN TO SEPARATE SOUTH LEBANON FROM HOMELAND,
CHARGING THAT ADF NOT ENTITLED TO BE PRESENT IN AREA
AND SHOULD BE REPLACED BY INTERNATIONAL FORCES.
OBSERVER PROBING THIS SITUATION WILL DISCOVER THAT
FIGHTING IN SOUTH LEBANON CAN ONLY SERVE INTEREST OF
ZIONIST ENEMY AND ITS EXPANSIONIST AMBITIONS. THESE

INCIDENTS SHOULD BE CONTAINED AT EARLIEST POSSIBLE TIME. ISSUE IS PURELY ARAB QUESTION, AND IT IS ADF., NOT INTERNATIONAL FORCES AS DEMANDED BY ISRAEL, WHICH ARE ENTITLED TO BE PRESENT IN SOUTH LEBANON." COLUMNIST THEN CALLED UPON "FORCES WHICH HAVE MADE SOUTH LEBANON STAGE FOR MILITARY OPERATIONS TO ABIDE BY CEASEFIRE RESOLUTIONS AND ADHERE TO SECURITY PLAN ADF IMPLEMENTING." HE CONCLUDED THAT, "IF SOME LEBANESE UNDER ILLUSION THAT SECURITY SITUATION IN SOUTH LEBANON HAS SLIPPED FROM HANDS OF STATE, THIS ILLUSION WILL SWIFTLY DISAPPEAR IN FACE OF ADF PINCERS.Z

2. TWO PAPERS FRONT-PAGED TEXT OF MARCH 1 AL-ANWAR EDITORIAL BY RAFIQ KHURI.ENTITLED "ASAD DOCTRINE BETWEEN LEBANON AND SUDAN," EDITORIAL PRAISED DECISION TAKEN BY PRES. ASAD TO PREVENT PARTITION AND BALKANIZATION OF LEBANON. WRITER CLAIMED ASAD HAD RESTORED ARAB SOLIDARITY IN LEBANON AND HAD CONSEQUENTLY REFOCUSSED ATTENTION ON NEED FOR COMPREHENSIVE SETTLEMENT OF ARAB-ISRAELI PROBLEM. HE CONCLUDED THAT, "WAR NEEDS MONEY; SETTLEMENT NEEDS MONEY; ARAB SOLIDARITY NEEDS MONEY; LEBANON NEEDS MONEY; AND UNITY OF POOR NEEDS MONEY. EITHER WE STICK TOGETHER, OR WE FALL TOGETHER."

3. REPORT IN AL-THAWRAH NOTED OBSTACLES THAT HAVE PREVENTED QUADRUPARTITE COMMITTEE FROM DISCHARGING ITS DUTIES: A) COMMITTEE CANNOT EXCEED ITS STIPULATED UNCLASSIFIED

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BOUNDS WHEN TACKLING PENDING ISSUES OF POLICY AND SECURITY, B) SOME POLITICAL GROUPS IN LEBANON STILL REFUSE TO DEAL WITH COMMITTEE IN POSITIVE MANNER, C) "NEW POLITICAL CIRCUMSTANCES WHICH HAVE ARisen IN LEBANON DIRECTLY REFLECT ON ACTIVITIES OF COMMITTEE," AND D) "MAIN OBSTACLE PREVENTING COMMITTEE FROM DISCHARGING ITS TASK IS PRESENCE OF FOREIGN FORCES ON LEBANESE SCENE CONSTANTLY TRYING TO INFLAME GENERAL ATMOSPHERE AND TO CARRY OUT TERRORIST ACTIVITIES AND PROVOCATIVE ACTS." REPORT CONCLUDED ON OPTIMISTIC NOTE THAT, "SOONER OR LATER, COMMITTEE WILL BE ABLE TO EXECUTE ALL ASSIGNED POLITICAL AND MILITARY TASKS, SINCE CAUSES PREVENTING IT FROM DOING SO WILL DEFINITELY BE ELIMINATED.

MURPHY

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Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 05-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
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Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
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